



Arlington Council on Aging

Minutes

Date: Thursday May 19, 2022 Time: 6:00 pm

Present: Anne Brown, Sheila Connerney, Nancy Cox, Mahendra Desai, Nancy Feeney, Mary Hung, Laura Liscio, Michael Quinn, Kristine Shah

Associate members: Mara Klein Collins, Karen Nichols, Bob Tosi, Marjorie Vanderhill

Select Board liaison: Steve DeCoursey

Location: This meeting will be conducted in a Hybrid format. Board members have a choice of attending in person or virtually. Residents are asked to attend virtually via zoom following the rules set forth by the Governor's Executive Order on Remote Participation. These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome. Please call 781-316-3401 or e-mail KShah@town.arlington.ma.us for the link to join the virtual meeting which can be accessed by computer with internet access or by telephone for audio access only.

Kristine Shah, Executive Director

Michael Quinn, Chair

Sheila Connerney, Secretary

The Council's primary responsibilities are to design, promote, and implement programs and services to address the needs of the community's elder population, and to coordinate existing services in the community.

1. Call to order 6:05pm
2. Citizen's Open Forum – None.
3. Minutes of the April 2022 meeting for approval. Nancy Cox moved to approve the minutes. Laura Liscio seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
4. Executive Director's Report
5. Age/Dementia Friendly
 - a. Caitlin to present plan to Select Board on June 27, 2022.
6. Report of the Chair. We are looking forward to the upcoming June tax deferral program and other programs that may be of value to seniors here. Discussion about other helpful educational sessions that may be useful, ie real estate lawyer-led session.
8. Minuteman Senior Services Report. Working on outreach about available services in their 16 communities. They may participate in Town Day this fall. Display is up at Robbins Library in town to promote services.
9. ASA Liaison Report

a. June 30, 2022, the ASA will be dissolving as an independent 501c3 organization and become a volunteer "Events Committee" under the COA. The committee will be chaired by current ASA president, Claire Foley. This committee will plan monthly/seasonal social events and lectures for the Arlington 60+ community in the center, working with the COA program coordinator.

10. Old Business

11. New Business

12. Other Community Announcements

13. Adjourn. Anne Brown moved to approve the minutes. Mary Hung seconded the motion. The minutes were approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

Next meeting: June 16, 2022

Executive Director's Report

Kristine Shah

I. Reopening

- a. We welcomed 158 older adults to our first luncheon since 2020 on April 28. The excitement was tangible.
- b. We had an additional 75 residents attend our Open House on May 5 from 2-4pm and 50+ residents attend our ribbon cutting event. Thank you to those of you who came!
- c. We have new people coming in every day for tours and to sign up for classes using our new My Senior Center scan terminal. We have assigned over 250 tags already and have accurate daily numbers of residents who are visiting.
- d. Our front desk is "staffed" with smiling volunteers during the hours we are open and have played a very helpful role in directing newcomers in the building.
- e. Remaining pieces of project to be done include the Elevator re-facing and the exterior signage installations.

II. COA Services Update

- a. We were thrilled to learn about a new program through Community Teamworks that Arlington will be participating in: Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). Community Teamworks manages our federal fuel assistance and we will soon be able to offer water bill assistance to qualifying residents as well. Jeety Gandhi, who manages our fuel assistance applicants, will be managing the LIHWAP program as well.
- b. Minuteman Senior Services is moving back in to the building on May 27; Meals on Wheels will begin operating out of the building the following week and congregate dining will begin July 1.

- c. On June 23 at 5:30; Rick Fentin and Michael Quinn will be leading a Property Tax Relief Info Session for residents.
- d. Our Lahey Farm Share program will be back in person this year and is beginning on June 13. This will service 70 residents weekly.
- e. The Spring Tea is taking place on May 19 and almost 50 people have registered to attend.
- f. We are beginning two new Thursday evening activities at the center: Zumba and Dementia/Alzheimer's Support Group
- g. Other new classes and groups include Sea Glass Art, Potting with Purpose and Shake Your Soul fitness classes. We also have a (miniature) horse therapy event planned for August. We have also been gifted a new ping pong table and plan to have weekly ping pong in the main hall starting this summer.
- h. Since reopening we have also welcomed back our Chinese Singing Group, Mahjongg players, Cribbage Players, Pool players, and many other familiar faces.
- i. 5 Harry Barber volunteers have completed their hours and are receiving their rental assistance this month.

III. COA Staff Update

- a. We currently have two positions posted: Receptionist and Van Driver